(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Technology upgradation in plantation sector

2191. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is need to go in for technology upgradation in the plantation sector to promote value addition, quality upgradation as well as exports; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal for waiver of important duties on essential machinery for such a technological upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has already reduced customs duty on 20 specified items of machinery for the plantation sector to 5% with Nil additional duty of customs (CVD) and Nil special additional duty of customs (SAD).

DCA's directives to autonomous institutes

2192. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether DCA has the power to issue directives to autonomous institutes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the DCA is even issuing such orders on purely executive action like transfer and postings; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Sections 35 of both the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959 and the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 empower the Government to issue such directions to the councils of Institute of Cost and Works Accountants and Institute of Company Secretaries of India respectively, as in the opinion of the Central Government are conducive to the fulfillment of the objects of the Act. Directions issued have been for the purposes stated in law.